(c) whether Government is contemplating to hold negotiations with the representatives of the Joint Action Committee well in advance to break the impasse ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No. Sir. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan has not received any notice of agitation in April, 1994, from any of the recognised employees associations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan discussed the twenty-five demands of the Joint Action Committee with the representative of employees associations and explained the position in regard to each demand. 16 demands are accepted by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, and 6 are not accepted in view of the policy framework available for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. 3 demands require further examination.

Pepper Production

*295. SHRI V. GOPALASAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1571 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1994 and state :

(a) what is the expected pepper production this year (1993-94) in the country, state-wise figures;

(b) what was the expected pepper production in other pepper producing countries this year (1993-94), country-wise figures ;

(c) by when the pepper crop in these countries will be ready and available in global markets, country-wise details :

(d) whether Government propose to constitute pepper producing country consortium to monitor world pepper price alongwith major pepper producing nations ; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, what steps are being taken to ensure that Indian pepper gets better price in the world market ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) The official estimates of Pepper production in India for 1993-94 are not available. According to the International Pepper Community, Pepper production in various countries including India in 1993 is expected to be as under :—

	('000 tonnes)
India	55
Brazil	23
Indonesia	37
Malaysia	20
China	6
Thailand	9
Vietnam	10
Madagascar	3
Sri Lanka	3

(c) The pepper crop in these countries is normally available between June and September. Malaysian pepper comes in early June followed by Indonesia and Brazil.

(d) and (e) International Pepper Community, and International organisation, has already been established by major pepper producing countries like India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil and Thiland. The main objective of the community is to promote, coordinate and harmonise all activities relating to pepper economy in the member country. Since International market does not give a premium for Indian pepper, efforts are being made to upgrade the quality by ensuring low microbial contamination, low or no pesticide residue etc. to make it acceptable in the international market.